(a) whether the Government propose to make a number of amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Many essential formalities need to be completed in various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati can be established.

Generation of Electricity by NIPTC

6254. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Power Transmission Corporation has also entered into the fielding generation of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Post Offices in Jharkhand Region

6255. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major gram panchayats in the Jharkhand region, where post offices could now be set up so far;

(b) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) the number of post offices in the region where telephone facility has been made available;

(d) the number of telephone to be installed in the remaining post offices by December, 1992; and

(e) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). There are a total of 3284 grame panchayats in Santhal Pargana and Chhotanagpur regions of Bihar of which 2019 gram panchayats are with post offices and 265 are without post offices. Efforts are being made to progressively cover as many villages as possible subject to satisfaction of norms prescribed for the purpose of opening of post offices, availability of funds and targets fixed. Special emphasis is proposed to be given for opening of post offices in the tribal areas during the 8th Five Yea Plan. During 1991-92 (upto 26.3.92), 52 extra departmental branch post offices have been sanctioned for these two regions.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (d). While there is no Separate plan to cover all post offices with telephone facility, it is planned to provide telephone facility to all panchayat villages by 31.3.95 and other villages in the country by 2000 AD progressively, subject to availability of resources. The post office is one of the suggested locations for installation of such telephone facility.

Private Aviation Companies

6256 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: